

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SS-15 NSC-05 H-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SF, UN, RH, WA, PFOR

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TESTIMONY ON REPEAL OF BYRD
AMENDMENT

REFTEL: CAPE TOW 274

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF SALIENT POINTS OF AMBASSADOR
YOUNG'S FEB. 24 TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEES ON
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND AFRICA. TRANSCRIPT WILL
BE POUCHED WHEN AVAILABLE.

1. IN OPENING STATEMENT AMBASSADOR YOUNG NOTED:
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-- AFRICAN LEADERS HOPEFUL BUT SKEPTICAL OF REPEAL.
BYRD AMENDMENT REGARDED AS EVIDENCE OF LATENT AMERICAN
RACISM WHICH ENCOURAGES SMITH TO BELIEVE SUPPORT WILL BE
FORTHCOMING FROM US AS WELL AS SOUTH AFRICA IN ESCALATING
MILITARY STRUGGLE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FOLLOWING POINTS WERE MADE

BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG:

-- REPEAL AND SUBSEQUENT RELIANCE ON SOUTH AFRICA AS CHROME SUPPLIER WILL NOT POSE CONSTRAINTS ON TAKING

ACTION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.

-- RECENT MEETING BETWEEN AMB. BOTHA AND SECRETARY VANCE WAS CONVOKED TO REPORT ON SMITH-VORSTER DISCUSSION AND RELAY SMITH'S CURRENT POSITION.

-- THERE WILL BE NO COMPROMISE WITH SOUTH AFRICA TO GAIN ITS SUPPORT IN SETTLING NAMIBIAN AND RHODESIAN PROBLEMS. IT IS CLEARLY IN SOUTH AFRICA'S OWN SELF-INTEREST TO RESTORE STABILITY TO THE REGION.

-- REPEAL WOULD HELP ASSURE THAT SMITH GOES DOWN ALONE WITHOUT INVOLVING BOTSWANA, ZAMBIA AND MOZAMBIQUE IN ECONOMIC CHAOS.

-- REPEAL WOULD HASTEN SMITH'S RETURN TO THE BARGAINING TABLE.

-- THE US SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO MOVE NAMIBIA TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE. THE PRESIDENT FEELS THAT BY DOING NOTHING WE ARE ASKING FOR TROUBLE. IF WE TAKE SOME SIMPLE, REASONABLE STEPS WE CAN AVERT VIOLENCE.

-- IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AS TO THE PROPRIETY OF IM-
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PORTING CHROME FROM SOUTH AFRICA, TURKEY AND RUSSIA SINCE WE DISAGREE WITH THEIR POLICIES, AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID THAT WE COULD NOT BUY GOODS ONLY FROM "PURE" COUNTRIES. WE FEEL SELECTIVE SANCTIONS ARE IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST AT THIS TIME.

-- SMITH AND AMIN (WHO REPRESSES THE CHRISTIAN MAJORITY) ARE MUCH THE SAME IN THEIR VIOLATION OF MAJORITY RIGHTS.

-- IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SOVIET INFLUENCE WOULD INCREASE IN AFRICA WITH AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE. NIGERIANS CHARACTERIZED CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA AS A BLEMISH ON AFRICAN CHARACTER. AFRICANS WANT NO MASSIVE FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE IN AFRICA.

-- SMITH'S INTERNAL SOLUTION UNACCEPTABLE AS IT IS WILL NOT BRING PEACE. ANY SOLUTION MUST INVOLVE ALL CONCERNED PARTIES.
VANCE

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